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COLTS 'piggybacks' Lancaster to get nine new hybrid buses

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The County of Lackawanna Transit System will go through a Lancaster County public transportation agency for the acquisition of nine

new hybrid buses.

The COLTS board voted unanimously Tuesday to "piggyback" on Red Rose Transit Authority's existing contract with California-based Gillig Corp. for the pur-

chase of the diesel-electric vehicles.

Executive Director Robert Fiume said piggybacking is a common practice in public transit and said COLTS used a similar process to buy the first four hybrid buses it introduced last week.

"If we didn't do this, we would have go through our own bidding process," he said. "Red Rose has already done it."

The nine 35-foot, fuel-efficient buses will cost \$550,000 each, and the purchase is being funded in part with a \$2.5 million clean fuels grant COLTS received from the Federal Transit Administration.

Delivery is expected in about 14 months, Mr. Fiume said.

The board agreed to amend a contract with Iron-Tree Data Networks Inc., which is handling an information technology upgrade at COLTS, to include the installation of a new phone system for \$5,100. The system components are being purchased separately through a state contract for no more than \$19,000.

The board also appointed COLTS communications director Gretchen Wintermantel to serve as the agency's Right to Know Law officer.

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